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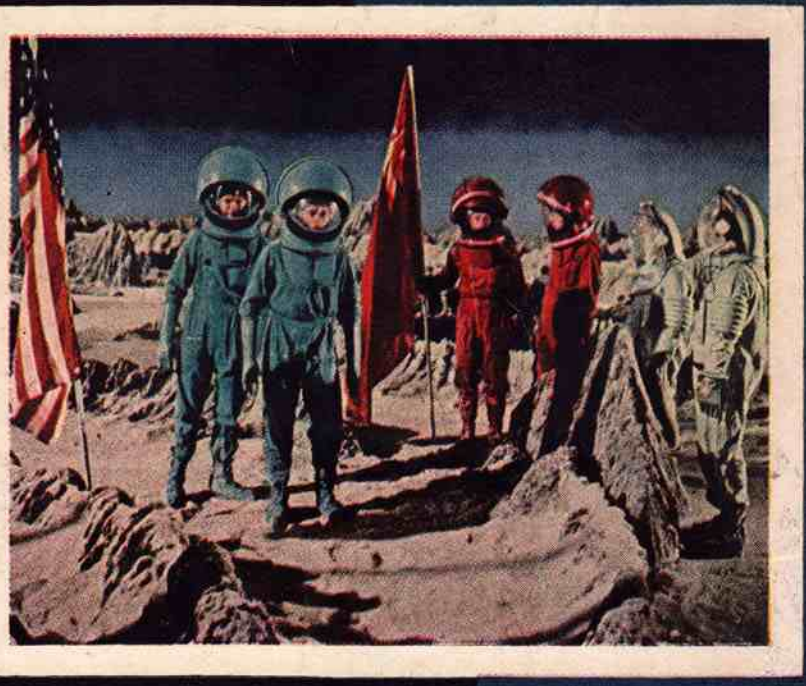
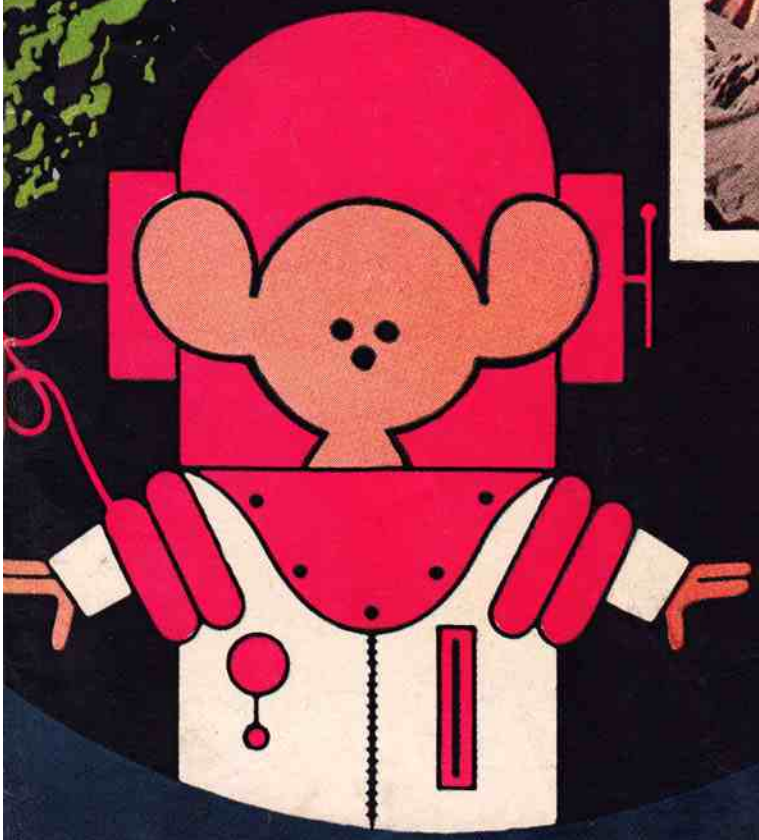
Movie-Classic

THE mouse on the moon

5-4-3-2-1...
KA-BOOM!
THE KOOKIEST
COUNTDOWN EVER
BLASTS TWO ASTRO-NUTS
INTO THE WACKIEST
ORBIT IN THE RACE
FOR OUTER SPACE!!





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THE MOUSE ON THE MOON

MARGARET RUTHERFORD and TERRY-THOMAS

BERNARD CRIBBINS · RON MOODY · DAVID KOSSOFF

with JUNE RITCHIE

A WALTER SHENSON Production · Screenplay by MICHAEL PERTWEE

From the Novel by LEONARD WIBBERLEY · Directed by RICHARD LESTER Produced by WALTER SHENSON

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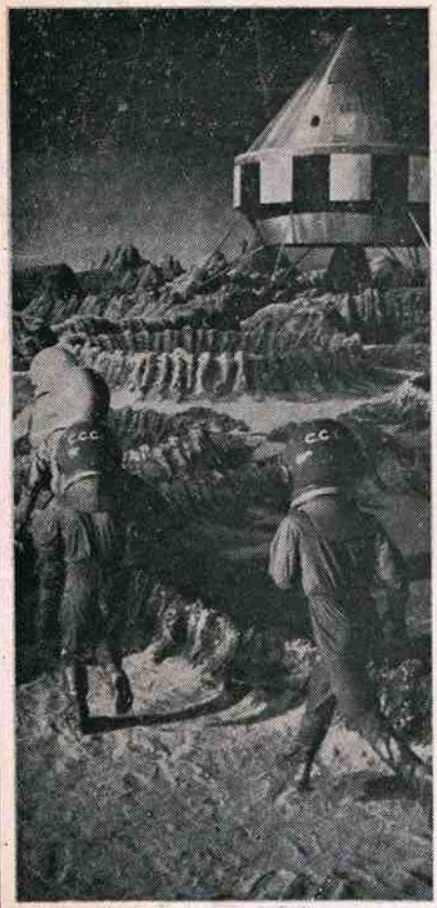
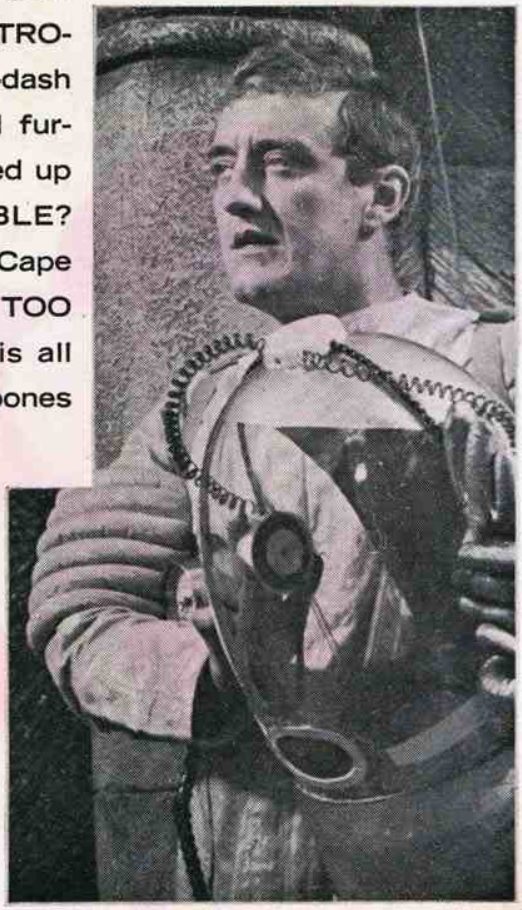
What OUT of this world has happened to the SPACE RACE when a peanut-sized country like GRAND FENWICK can put TWO ASTRO-NUTS on the MOON in a slap-dash ROCKET SHIP made of old furnaces and powered by souped up champagne? UNBELIEVABLE? That's what they thought at Cape Canaveral... UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE! The hilarious story is all here, recorded for the funnybones of the future.





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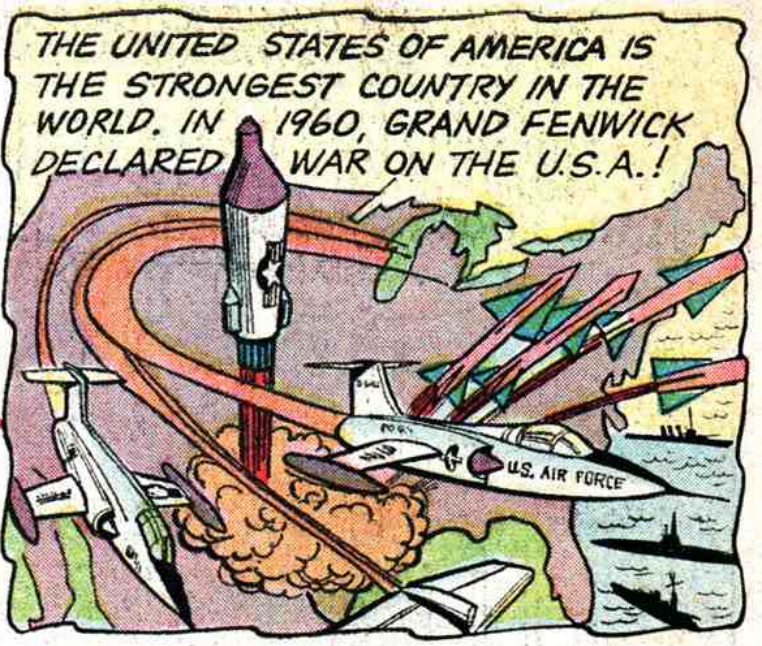
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS THE STRONGEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. IN 1960, GRAND FENWICK DECLARED WAR ON THE U.S.A.!
U.S. AIR FORCE

GRAND FENWICK WANTED TO LOSE THAT WAR SO THAT THEY COULD RECEIVE SOME OF THE GENEROUS FINANCIAL AID WHICH THE U.S.A. ALWAYS GIVES TO IT'S DEFEATED ENEMIES. UNFORTUNATELY GRAND FENWICK WON THE WAR!
AND THIS IS THE MAGNIFICENT ARMY THAT BEAT THE U.S.A.!
OOM-PA-PA

THEY CAPTURED THE BRILLIANT SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR KOKINTZ, WHO CHOSE TO STAY IN GRAND FENWICK AND CARRY ON HIS AMAZING EXPERIMENTS!
TIME TO WATER MY CACTUS!

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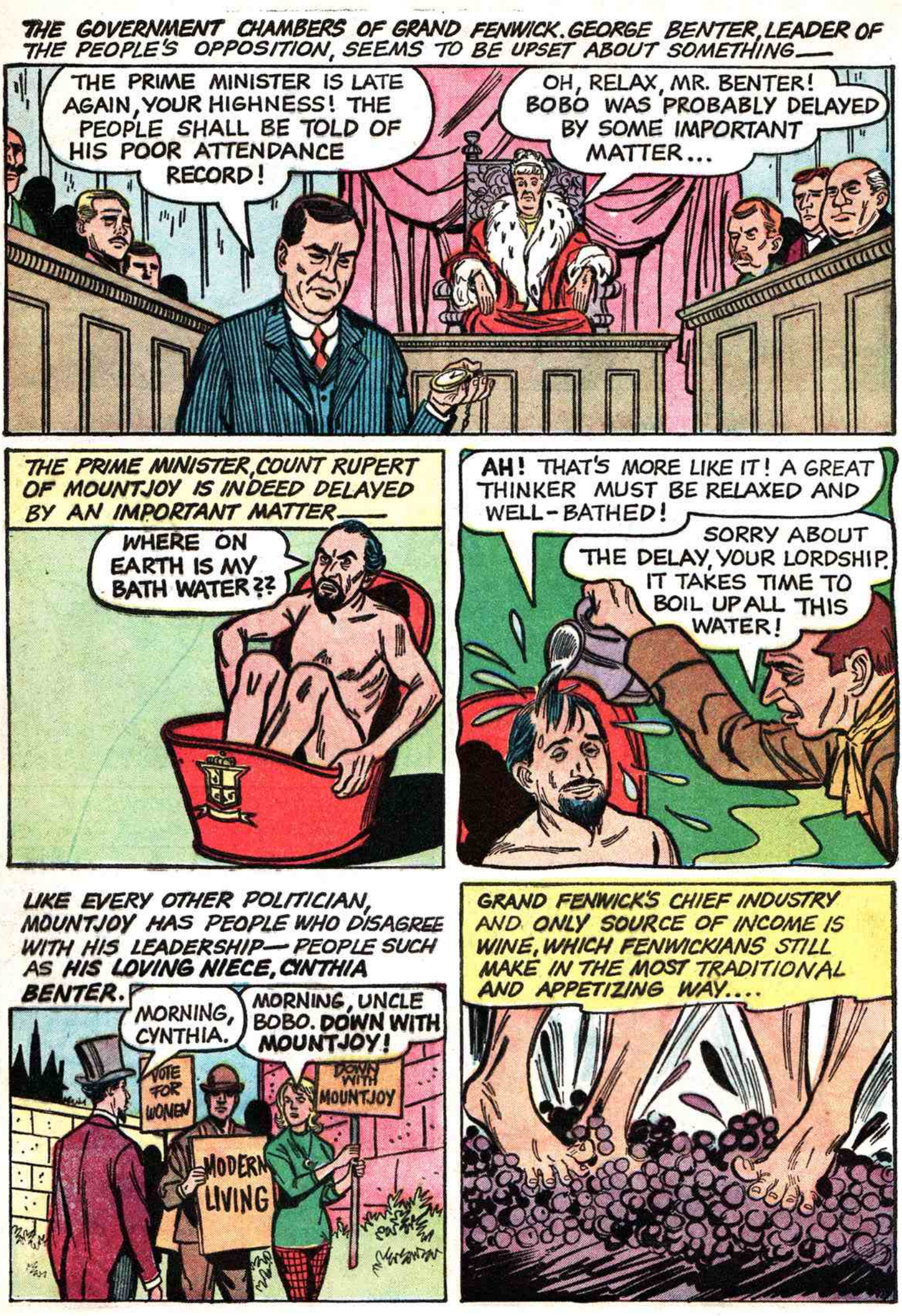
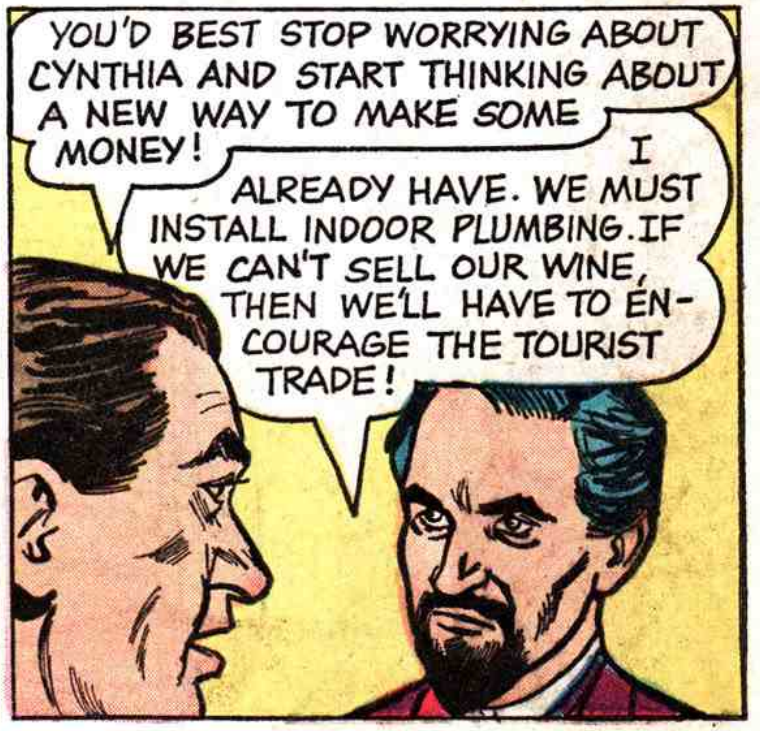

THE GOVERNMENT CHAMBERS OF GRAND FENWICK. GEORGE BENTER, LEADER OF THE PEOPLE'S OPPOSITION, SEEMS TO BE UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING—
THE PRIME MINISTER IS LATE AGAIN, YOUR HIGHNESS! THE PEOPLE SHALL BE TOLD OF HIS POOR ATTENDANCE RECORD!
OH, RELAX, MR. BENTER! BOBO WAS PROBABLY DELAYED BY SOME IMPORTANT MATTER...
THE PRIME MINISTER, COUNT RUPERT OF MOUNTJOY IS INDEED DELAYED BY AN IMPORTANT MATTER—
WHERE ON EARTH IS MY BATH WATER??
AH! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! A GREAT THINKER MUST BE RELAXED AND WELL-BATHED!
SORRY ABOUT THE DELAY, YOUR LORDSHIP. IT TAKES TIME TO BOIL UP ALL THIS WATER!
LIKE EVERY OTHER POLITICIAN, MOUNTJOY HAS PEOPLE WHO DISAGREE WITH HIS LEADERSHIP— PEOPLE SUCH AS HIS LOVING NIECE, CYNTHIA BENTER.
MORNING, CYNTHIA.
MORNING, UNCLE BOBO. DOWN WITH MOUNTJOY!
VOTE FOR WOMEN
DOWN WITH MOUNTJOY
MODERN LIVING
GRAND FENWICK'S CHIEF INDUSTRY AND ONLY SOURCE OF INCOME IS WINE, WHICH FENWICKIANS STILL MAKE IN THE MOST TRADITIONAL AND APPETIZING WAY....

FENWICK'S LATEST EXPORT IS A SPARKLING WINE CALLED **PINOT SHAMPANE**. BUT RECENTLY A SERIES OF STRANGE, UNEXPLAINED DISASTERS OCCURRED, INVOLVING **PINOT SHAMPANE**

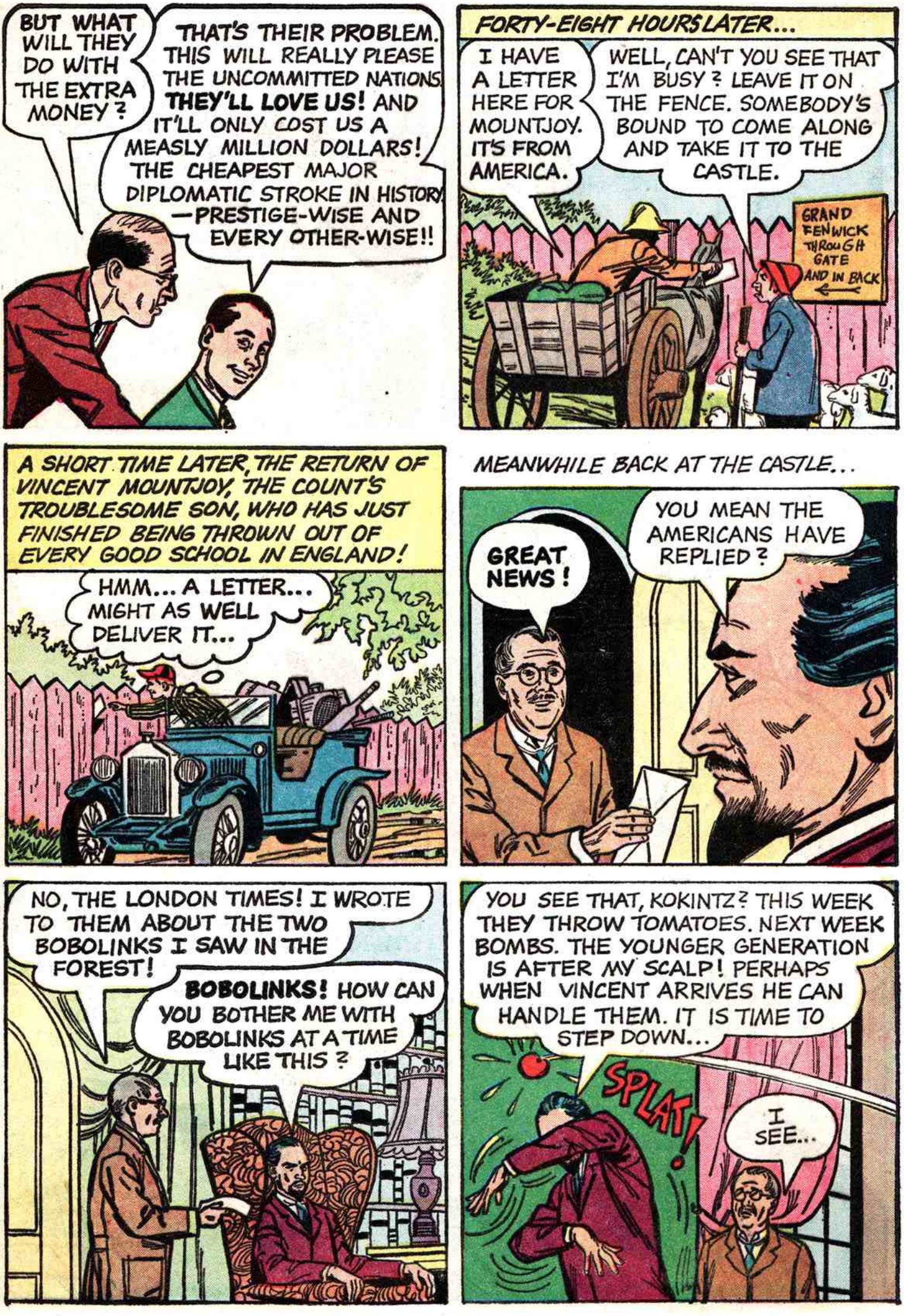
GENTLEMEN, WE SHALL JUST HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT OUR WINE DOESN'T TRAVEL WELL. ENGLAND AND AMERICA HAVE ALREADY BANNED OUR PRODUCT. AND THE UNITED NATIONS WON'T HELP US, BECAUSE A CASE OF OUR PINOT EXPLODED IN THE U.N. BUILDING.
UNLESS WE EXPORT OUR WINES, WE'LL GO BROKE!
CALM DOWN, GENTLEMEN. PROFESSOR KOKINTZ IS TRYING TO DISCOVER THE TROUBLE AT THIS VERY MINUTE.

WE WANT MODERN CONVENIENCES! ONE TV SET IS NOT ENOUGH FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY!
DOWN WITH MOUNTJOY!
BENTER, YOUR DAUGHTER CYNTHIA KNOWS VERY WELL THAT I WANT MODERN CONVENIENCES, TOO! SHE'D BETTER STOP PICKING ON ME! OR ELSE!!
VOTES FOR WOMEN
MOUNTJOY


YOU'D BEST STOP WORRYING ABOUT CYNTHIA AND START THINKING ABOUT A NEW WAY TO MAKE SOME MONEY!
I ALREADY HAVE. WE MUST INSTALL INDOOR PLUMBING. IF WE CAN'T SELL OUR WINE, THEN WE'LL HAVE TO ENCOURAGE THE TOURIST TRADE!

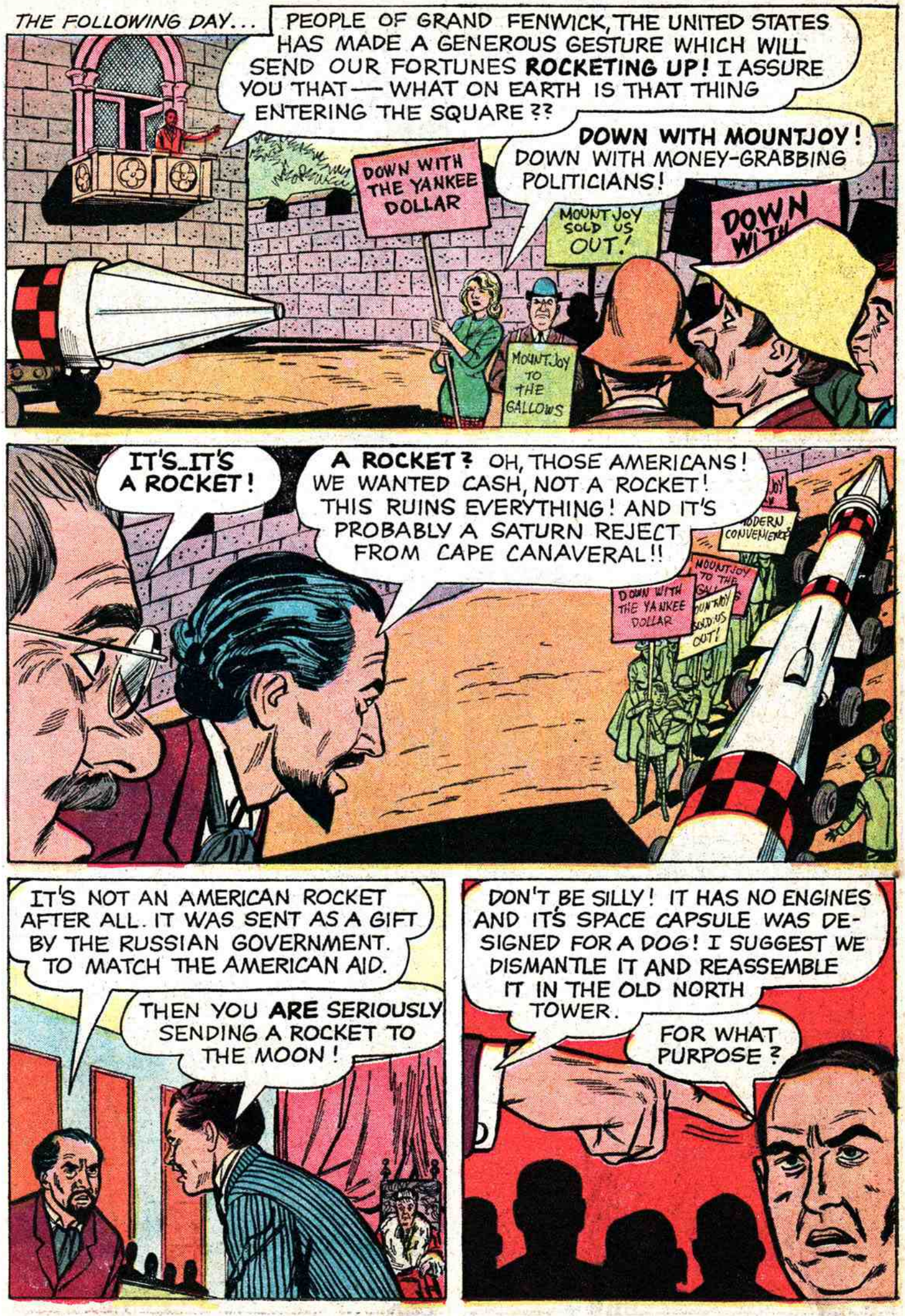
LOTS OF PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT GRAND FENWICK. BUT THEY WON'T COME UNTIL WE HAVE MODERN PLUMBING. AND I INTEND TO ASK THE UNITED STATES FOR THE MONEY TO DO IT!
YOU'RE MAD! THEN THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD KNOW HOW POOR WE ARE!
BUT I'D NEVER TELL UNCLE SAM THE REAL REASON. WE'LL SIMPLY SAY WE WANT TO BUILD A MOON ROCKET. AND THEY KNOW WE COULD NEVER BE SUCCESSFUL, SO THEY'LL GIVE US THE MONEY AS A GESTURE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SPACE.
I'M AGAINST IT! IT'S DISHONEST!... HMM... HOW MUCH WILL YOU ASK FOR??
HALF A MILLION DOLLARS. PEANUTS TO THE AMERICANS. THEY'LL GIVE IT TO US IN A MINUTE... BECAUSE THEY WANT TO BE LOVED... AND BECAUSE THEY KNOW WE COULD NEVER BEAT THEM TO THE MOON!
OH, GOODY! NOW I CAN GET A NEW FUR COAT!!
BOOOM!
GREAT DAY! WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S ONLY PROFESSOR KOKINTZ TESTING OUR WINE...
SEVERAL DAYS LATER, IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C., OFFICES OF HERBERT BRACEWELL, U.S. UNDER-SECRETARY FOR SPECIAL AFFAIRS...
PROFESSOR VON NEIDEL, WE BOTH KNOW THAT OUR ROBOT MOON SHOT WAS A FLOP. IF THE MOON'S SURFACE IS NOTHING BUT DEEP, SOFT DUST, WOULDN'T THAT EXPLAIN WHY THE ROBOT HAS NOT ESTABLISHED RADIO CONTACT?
I INSIST THAT WE MUST SEND A MAN THERE. IT IS THE ONLY SURE WAY TO FIND OUT!

SURE WE CAN GET A MAN THERE! BUT CAN WE GET HIM BACK? I'M NOT TAKING ANY RISKS UNTIL WE'RE SURE!
ACH! IF WE DO NOT GO NOW, THE RUSSIANS WILL GET THERE FIRST!
HERE'S A LETTER FROM GRAND FENWICK, SIR. YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT IN 1960 THEY...
NOT THEM! HAVE THEY DECLARED WAR AGAIN? WE'RE TO BUSY! WHAT'S THIS?? THEY WANT HALF A MILLION FOR ROCKET RESEARCH!
THIS GUY MOUNTJOY'S SOME KIND OF A NUT. THAT KIND OF MONEY WOULDN'T EVEN BUY A SECOND-HAND SPACE SUIT!
THEY DO HAVE PROFESSOR KOKINTZ, SIR.
ONE OLD SCIENTIST WITH A BUNSEN BURNER. NONSENSE! MOUNTJOY OBVIOUSLY WANTS THE LOAN FOR A SECRET REASON. LIKE PLUMBING FOR THE CASTLE OR SOMETHING.
PLUMBING? THEN I SUGGEST A POLITE REFUSAL!
NO COUNTRY WILL ADMIT IT'S BROKE. THUS, THE PHONEY ROCKET STORY. SURE WE REFUSE THE LOAN.
AND INSTEAD WE GIVE THEM AN OUTRIGHT GIFT OF ONE MILLION! TWICE THE AMOUNT! WE KNOW GRAND FENWICK COULDN'T EVEN MAKE FIREWORKS! BUT THEY DO HAVE KOKINTZ, SO IT AT LEAST LOOKS BELIEVABLE. AND THE U.S.A. WILL REALLY BE ENCOURAGING INTERNATIONAL SPACE RESEARCH!

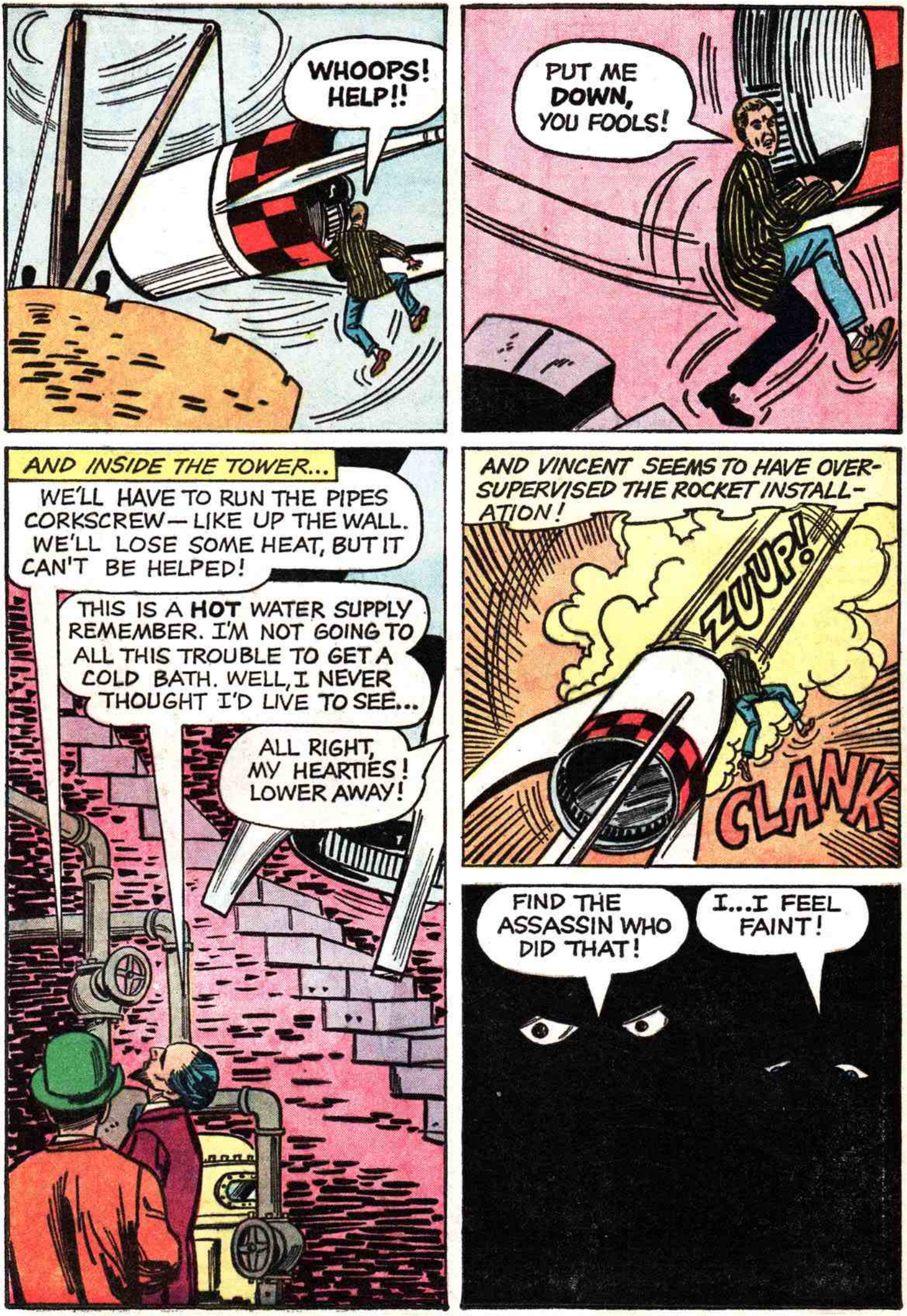

BUT WHAT WILL THEY DO WITH THE EXTRA MONEY?
THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM. THIS WILL REALLY PLEASE THE UNCOMMITTED NATIONS. THEY'LL LOVE US! AND IT'LL ONLY COST US A MEASLY MILLION DOLLARS! THE CHEAPEST MAJOR DIPLOMATIC STROKE IN HISTORY —PRESTIGE-WISE AND EVERY OTHER-WISE!!
FORTY-EIGHT HOURS LATER...
I HAVE A LETTER HERE FOR MOUNTJOY. IT'S FROM AMERICA.
WELL, CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I'M BUSY? LEAVE IT ON THE FENCE. SOMEBODY'S BOUND TO COME ALONG AND TAKE IT TO THE CASTLE.
GRAND FENWICK THROUGH GATE AND IN BACK
A SHORT TIME LATER, THE RETURN OF VINCENT MOUNTJOY, THE COUNT'S TROUBLESOME SON, WHO HAS JUST FINISHED BEING THROWN OUT OF EVERY GOOD SCHOOL IN ENGLAND!
HMM... A LETTER... MIGHT AS WELL DELIVER IT...
MEANWHILE BACK AT THE CASTLE...
GREAT NEWS!
YOU MEAN THE AMERICANS HAVE REPLIED?
NO, THE LONDON TIMES! I WROTE TO THEM ABOUT THE TWO BOBOLINKS I SAW IN THE FOREST!
BOBOLINKS! HOW CAN YOU BOTHER ME WITH BOBOLINKS AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
YOU SEE THAT, KOKINTZ? THIS WEEK THEY THROW TOMATOES. NEXT WEEK BOMBS. THE YOUNGER GENERATION IS AFTER MY SCALP! PERHAPS WHEN VINCENT ARRIVES HE CAN HANDLE THEM. IT IS TIME TO STEP DOWN...
SPLAT!
I SEE...

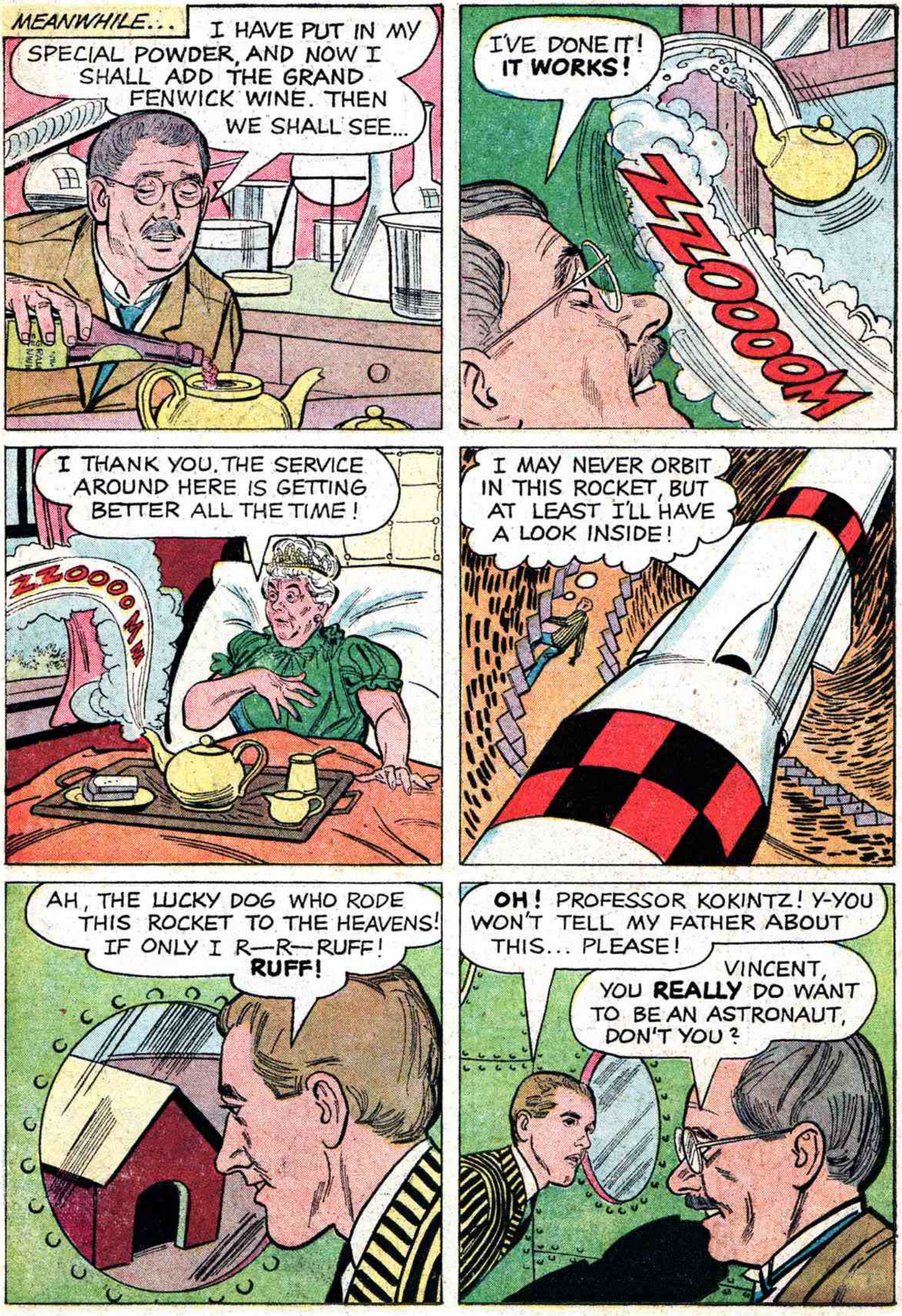
YOU THINK THAT A BOY CAN SUCCEED WHERE YOU HAVE FAILED?
VINCENT WILL MAKE AN IDEAL POLITICIAN. AS A CHILD HE WAS FANTASTICALLY SLY AND DISHONEST. THESE YEARS IN ENGLAND SHOULD HAVE RIPENED HIM NICELY!
HELLO, PATER! I'M HOME!
VINCENT? IS THAT YOU?
YES, PATER, IT'S ME!
MY BOY! WELCOME HOME AT THIS HOUR WHEN YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU MOST!
WHOOPS! SORRY, PATER!
OUCH! NEVER MIND, SON. WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE. IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER!
BOP
BUT PATER, I DON'T WANT TO BE PRIME MINISTER. I WANT TO BE AN ASTRONAUT!
A WHAT??
YOU KNOW... WHEEE!
NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME. ONE MORE WORD OF THIS AND YOU'LL GET A ROCKET FROM ME YOU'LL NEVER FORGET! WHAT'S THIS ENVELOPE?

IT'S FROM THE AMERICANS... THE LOAN... YES... NO... GIFT! TWICE THE AMOUNT! WE'RE SAVED! A MILLION DOLLARS FOR ROCKET RESEARCH!
OH, PATER! THAT'S WONDERFUL! NOW I CAN BE GRAND FENWICK'S FIRST ASTRONAUT!
DON'T BE SILLY! THIS MONEY IS GOING TO BE USED FOR PEACE, PROSPERITY—AND PLUMBING! HOT BATHS!
IT'S.. IT'S DISHONEST! THAT MONEY WAS GIVEN FOR ROCKET RESEARCH!
GET THIS THROUGH YOUR TINY HEAD. NATIONS WOULD LOSE TRUST IN EACH OTHER IF THEY TOLD THE TRUTH. IT IS POSITIVELY DISHONEST TO USE A LOAN FOR THE PURPOSE IT WAS ASKED!
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH—
I WARN YOU, PATER, I SHALL FIGHT YOU ON THIS... TOOTH AND NAIL!
THE LAST MOUNTJOY TO DEFY HIS FATHER ENDED ON THE RACK! THE RACK! AND HE LOST HIS ALLOWANCE!
VINCENT MOUNTJOY! SO YOU'VE COME HOME TO HELP YOUR FATHER. WELL, IT WON'T WORK! WE'LL GET WHAT WE WANT, OR WE'LL FINISH HIM!
FORGET IT, CYNTHIA. HE'S GOING TO GIVE YOU YOUR MODERN CONVENIENCES. SO WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT WITH ME TONIGHT?
CONVENIENCES
HE IS? THANKS FOR THE WARNING! SEE YOU, VINCENT! FOLLOW ME, FOLKS! EMERGENCY!!
WELL, OF ALL THE—! I THOUGHT SHE'D BE PLEASED!
BUT SHE'S NOT! AND SHE DIDN'T EVEN HEAR MY INVITATION!

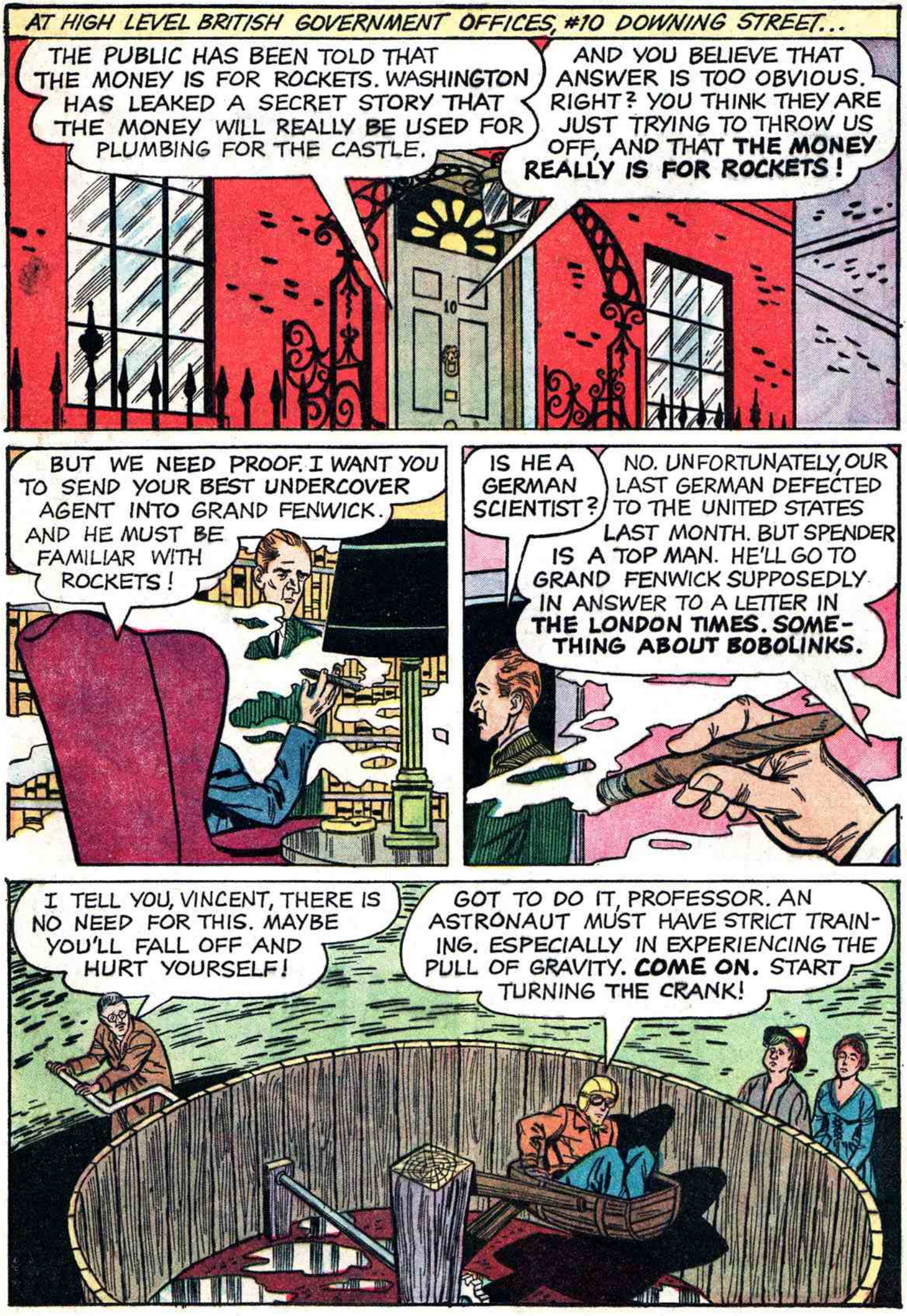

THE FOLLOWING DAY...
PEOPLE OF GRAND FENWICK, THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE A GENEROUS GESTURE WHICH WILL SEND OUR FORTUNES ROCKETING UP! I ASSURE YOU THAT — WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT THING ENTERING THE SQUARE??
DOWN WITH THE YANKEE DOLLAR
DOWN WITH MOUNTJOY! DOWN WITH MONEY-GRABBING POLITICIANS!
MOUNTJOY SOLD US OUT!
DOWN WI
MOUNTJOY TO THE GALLOWS
IT'S_IT'S A ROCKET!
A ROCKET? OH, THOSE AMERICANS! WE WANTED CASH, NOT A ROCKET! THIS RUINS EVERYTHING! AND IT'S PROBABLY A SATURN REJECT FROM CAPE CANAVERAL!!
MODERN CONVENIENCES
MOUNTJOY TO THE
DOWN WITH THE YANKEE DOLLAR
SOLD US OUT!
IT'S NOT AN AMERICAN ROCKET AFTER ALL. IT WAS SENT AS A GIFT BY THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT. TO MATCH THE AMERICAN AID.
THEN YOU ARE SERIOUSLY SENDING A ROCKET TO THE MOON!
DON'T BE SILLY! IT HAS NO ENGINES AND ITS SPACE CAPSULE WAS DESIGNED FOR A DOG! I SUGGEST WE DISMANTLE IT AND REASSEMBLE IT IN THE OLD NORTH TOWER.
FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

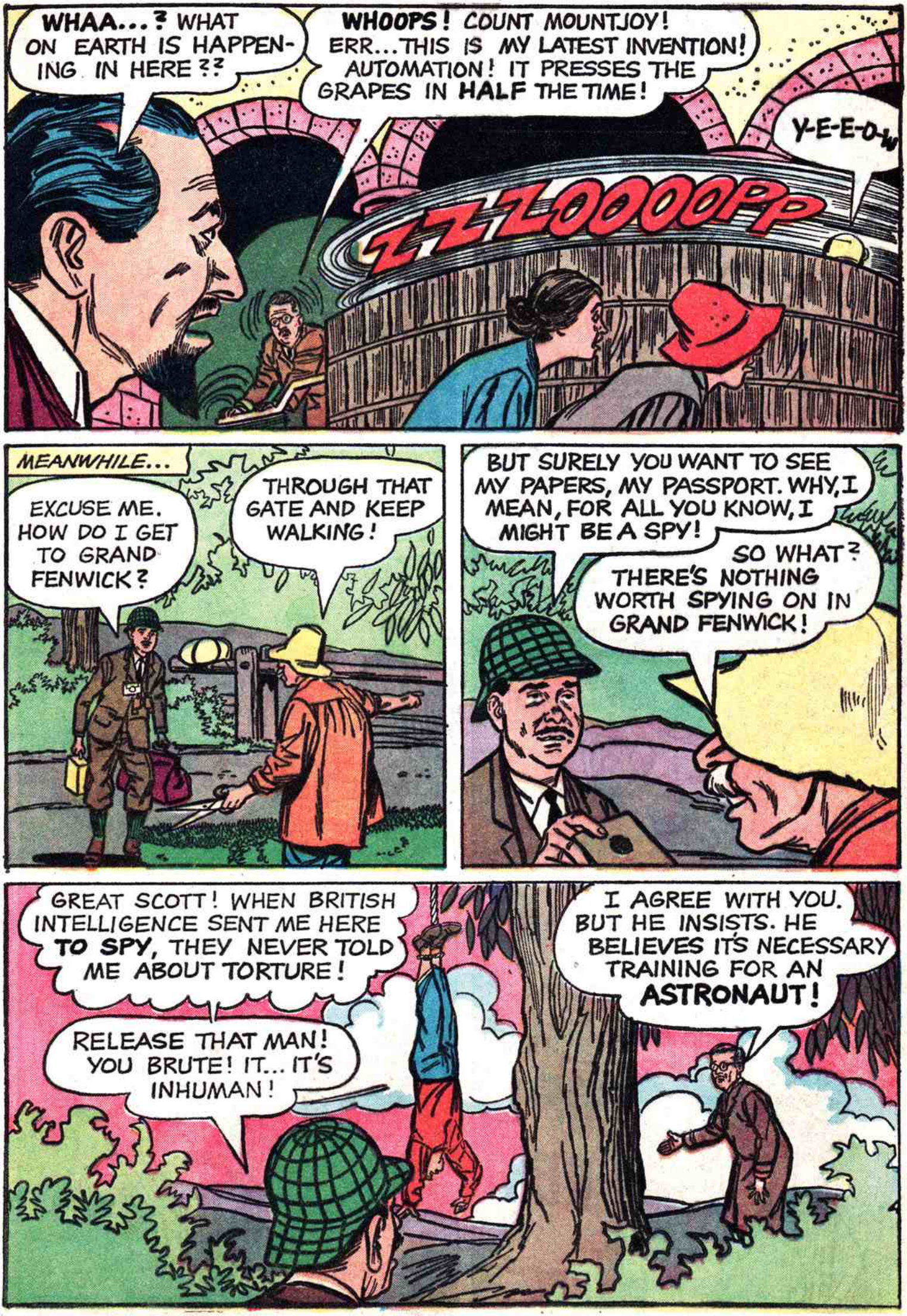
TO HIDE IT, OF COURSE! THERE'S ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT CAN BE USED AS THE MAIN TANK FOR THE NEW HOT WATER SYSTEM!
ZZZZZZ
AND WHAT ARE THE RUSSIANS GOING TO SAY ABOUT THAT?
THEY WON'T KNOW—UNLESS YOU TELL THEM. WE SHALL LET BOTH AMERICA AND RUSSIA THINK THAT WE ARE WORKING ON A MOON PROJECT!
HMMM...
THE WORK BEGINS...
THE REAR SECTIONS WILL BE LOWERED INTO THE TOWER FIRST. THEN WE'LL ADD THIS NOSE PIECE. HEAVE HO, MY HEARTIES!
HEY! WAIT! HOLD ON TO THAT THING! IT'S COMING AFTER ME!!
EGAD! I'M DONE FOR!!
NOT QUITE, MASTER VINCENT! BUT THERE'S SOME NEW VENTILATION IN THE CASTLE WALL!
BOOM!
VINCENT SEEMS TO ENJOY DANGER...
UP SHE COMES! EASY DOES IT!

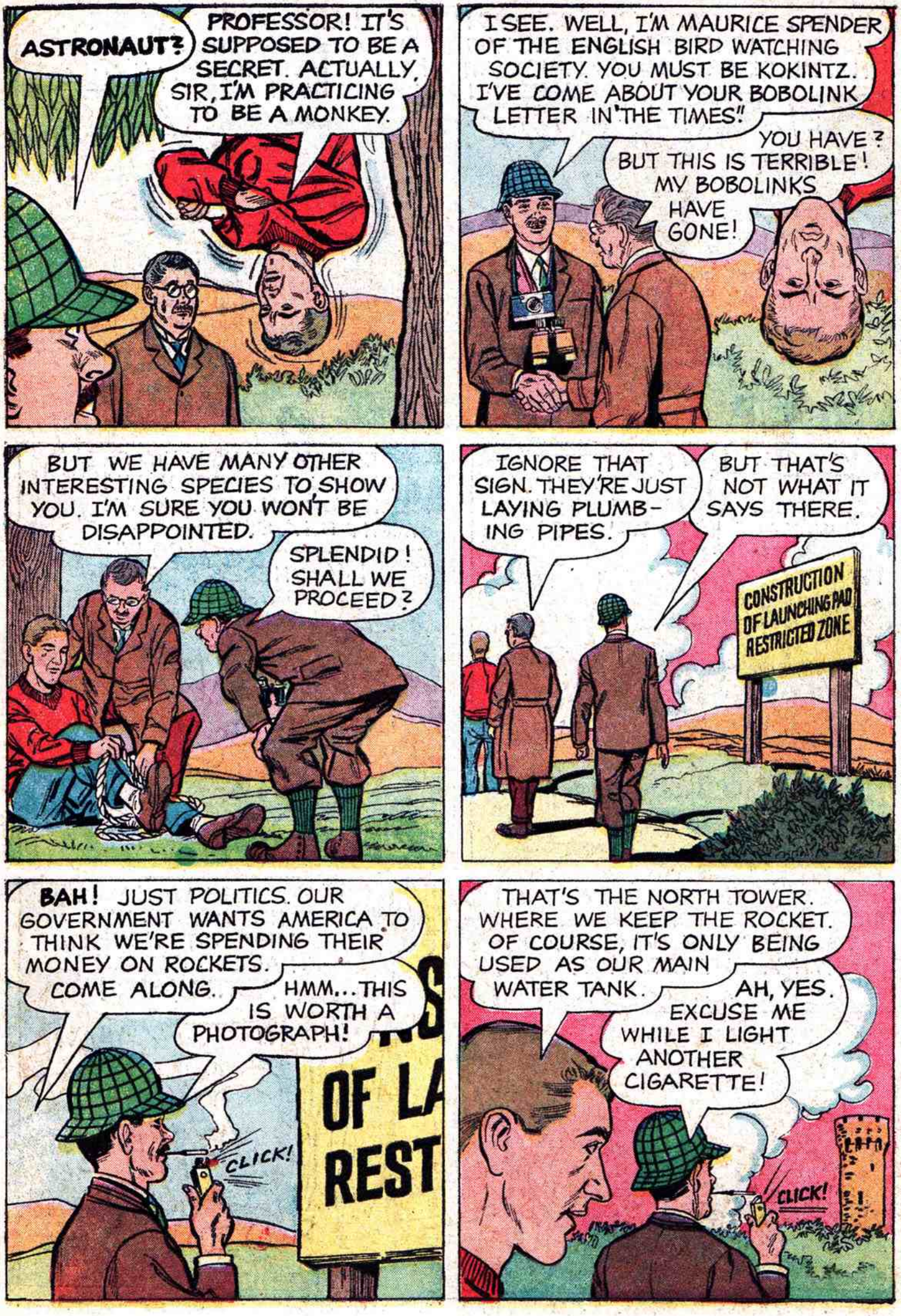

WHOOPS! HELP!!
PUT ME DOWN, YOU FOOLS!
AND INSIDE THE TOWER...
WE'LL HAVE TO RUN THE PIPES CORKSCREW—LIKE UP THE WALL. WE'LL LOSE SOME HEAT, BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED!
THIS IS A HOT WATER SUPPLY REMEMBER. I'M NOT GOING TO ALL THIS TROUBLE TO GET A COLD BATH. WELL, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE...
ALL RIGHT, MY HEARTIES! LOWER AWAY!
AND VINCENT SEEMS TO HAVE OVER-SUPERVISED THE ROCKET INSTALL-ATION!
ZUUP!
CLANK
FIND THE ASSASSIN WHO DID THAT!
I...I FEEL FAINT!

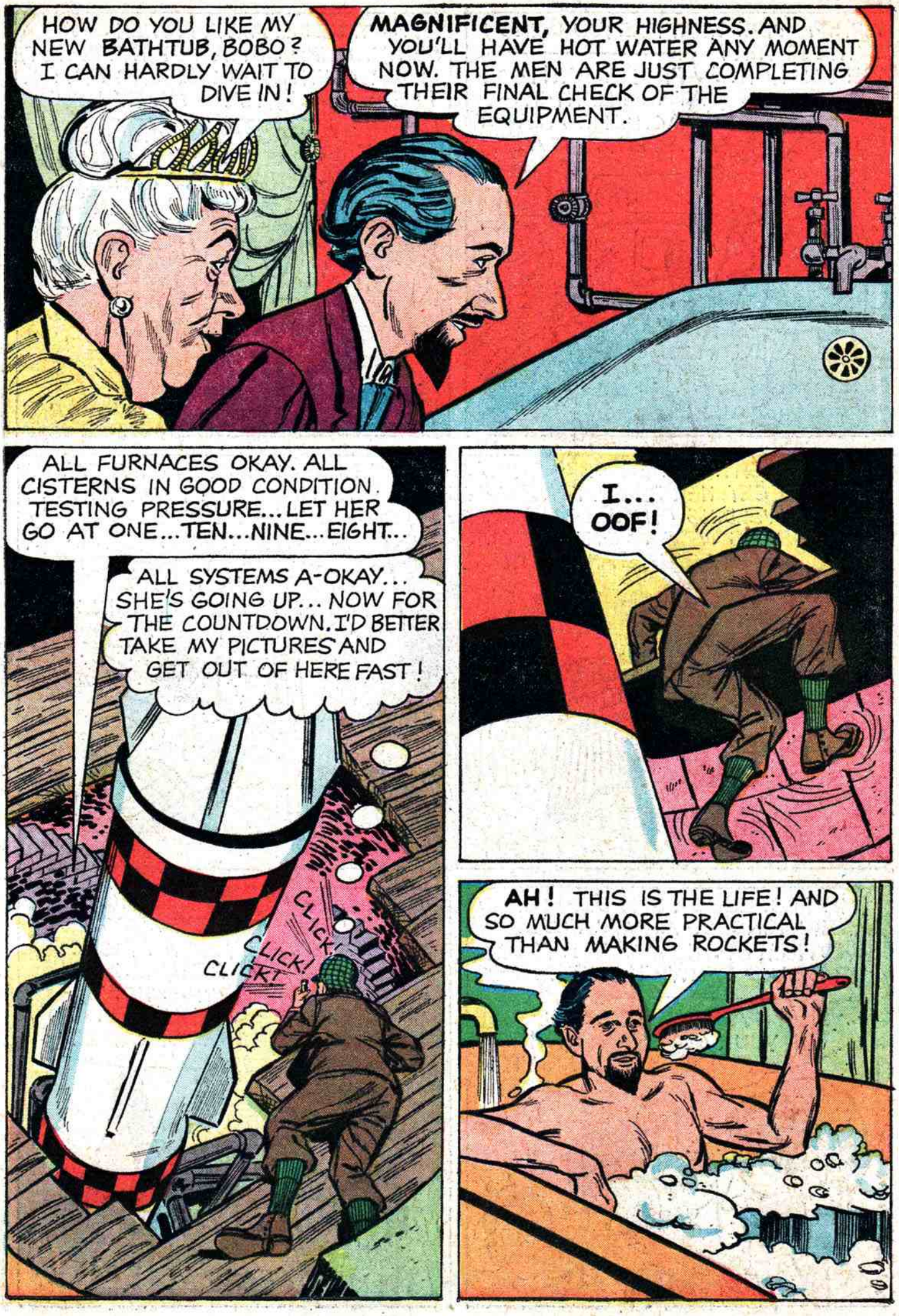

MEANWHILE...
I HAVE PUT IN MY SPECIAL POWDER, AND NOW I SHALL ADD THE GRAND FENWICK WINE. THEN WE SHALL SEE...
I'VE DONE IT! IT WORKS!
ZZOOOOM
I THANK YOU. THE SERVICE AROUND HERE IS GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME!
ZZOOOOMM
I MAY NEVER ORBIT IN THIS ROCKET, BUT AT LEAST I'LL HAVE A LOOK INSIDE!
AH, THE LUCKY DOG WHO RODE THIS ROCKET TO THE HEAVENS! IF ONLY I R—R—RUFF! RUFF!
OH! PROFESSOR KOKINTZ! Y-YOU WON'T TELL MY FATHER ABOUT THIS... PLEASE!
VINCENT, YOU REALLY DO WANT TO BE AN ASTRONAUT, DON'T YOU?

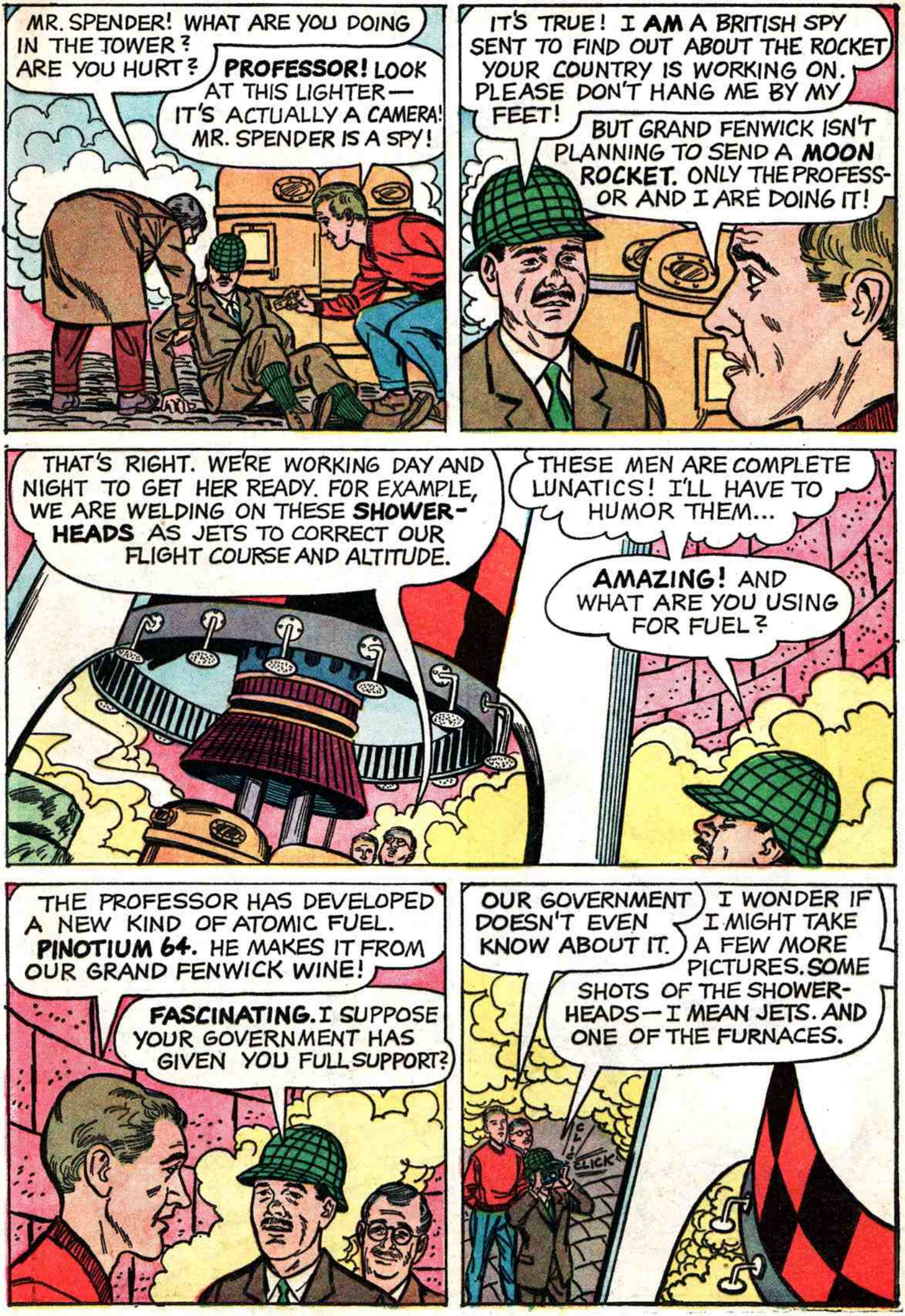
I, TOO, HAVE MY DREAMS. AND I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU. COME WITH ME, AND I'LL SHOW YOU A MIRACLE THAT CAN MAKE BOTH OUR DREAMS COME TRUE!
LEAD THE WAY, PROFESSOR!
FOR FIFTEEN YEARS I HAVE SEARCHED FOR A WAY. NOW WATCH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU SEE?
I...I SEE, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!
ZZOOOOM
BOOING
CONVINCED?
IT...IT'S FANTASTIC! COULD IT—COULD IT LIFT A ROCKET?
SSSSH
IT COULD LIFT ANYTHING ANYWHERE. FEEL THE PULL OF THAT LITTLE MOTOR. BUT DON'T TUG TOO HARD.
ZZOOM
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT! WELL, AT LEAST YOU'VE SEEN A COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION!
WHOOPS! I SWEAR I ALMOST WENT WITH IT!!
ZZOOOMM
CRASH!


AT HIGH LEVEL BRITISH GOVERNMENT OFFICES, #10 DOWNING STREET...
THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN TOLD THAT THE MONEY IS FOR ROCKETS. WASHINGTON HAS LEAKED A SECRET STORY THAT THE MONEY WILL REALLY BE USED FOR PLUMBING FOR THE CASTLE.
AND YOU BELIEVE THAT ANSWER IS TOO OBVIOUS. RIGHT? YOU THINK THEY ARE JUST TRYING TO THROW US OFF, AND THAT THE MONEY REALLY IS FOR ROCKETS!
10
BUT WE NEED PROOF. I WANT YOU TO SEND YOUR BEST UNDERCOVER AGENT INTO GRAND FENWICK. AND HE MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH ROCKETS!
IS HE A GERMAN SCIENTIST?
NO. UNFORTUNATELY, OUR LAST GERMAN DEFECTED TO THE UNITED STATES LAST MONTH. BUT SPENDER IS A TOP MAN. HE'LL GO TO GRAND FENWICK SUPPOSEDLY IN ANSWER TO A LETTER IN THE LONDON TIMES. SOMETHING ABOUT BOBOLINKS.
I TELL YOU, VINCENT, THERE IS NO NEED FOR THIS. MAYBE YOU'LL FALL OFF AND HURT YOURSELF!
GOT TO DO IT, PROFESSOR. AN ASTRONAUT MUST HAVE STRICT TRAINING. ESPECIALLY IN EXPERIENCING THE PULL OF GRAVITY. COME ON. START TURNING THE CRANK!


WHAA...? WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPENING IN HERE??
WHOOPS! COUNT MOUNTJOY! ERR...THIS IS MY LATEST INVENTION! AUTOMATION! IT PRESSES THE GRAPES IN HALF THE TIME!
Y-E-E-O-W
ZZZOOOOPP
MEANWHILE...
EXCUSE ME. HOW DO I GET TO GRAND FENWICK?
THROUGH THAT GATE AND KEEP WALKING!
BUT SURELY YOU WANT TO SEE MY PAPERS, MY PASSPORT. WHY, I MEAN, FOR ALL YOU KNOW, I MIGHT BE A SPY!
SO WHAT? THERE'S NOTHING WORTH SPYING ON IN GRAND FENWICK!
GREAT SCOTT! WHEN BRITISH INTELLIGENCE SENT ME HERE TO SPY, THEY NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT TORTURE!
RELEASE THAT MAN! YOU BRUTE! IT... IT'S INHUMAN!
I AGREE WITH YOU. BUT HE INSISTS. HE BELIEVES IT'S NECESSARY TRAINING FOR AN ASTRONAUT!


ASTRONAUT?
PROFESSOR! IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET. ACTUALLY, SIR, I'M PRACTICING TO BE A MONKEY.
I SEE. WELL, I'M MAURICE SPENDER OF THE ENGLISH BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY. YOU MUST BE KOKINTZ. I'VE COME ABOUT YOUR BOBOLINK LETTER IN THE TIMES!
YOU HAVE? BUT THIS IS TERRIBLE! MY BOBOLINKS HAVE GONE!
BUT WE HAVE MANY OTHER INTERESTING SPECIES TO SHOW YOU. I'M SURE YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED.
SPLENDID! SHALL WE PROCEED?
IGNORE THAT SIGN. THEY'RE JUST LAYING PLUMB-ING PIPES.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT IT SAYS THERE.
CONSTRUCTION OF LAUNCHING PAD RESTRICTED ZONE
BAH! JUST POLITICS. OUR GOVERNMENT WANTS AMERICA TO THINK WE'RE SPENDING THEIR MONEY ON ROCKETS. COME ALONG.
HMM... THIS IS WORTH A PHOTOGRAPH!
CLICK!
OF LA
REST
THAT'S THE NORTH TOWER. WHERE WE KEEP THE ROCKET. OF COURSE, IT'S ONLY BEING USED AS OUR MAIN WATER TANK.
AH, YES. EXCUSE ME WHILE I LIGHT ANOTHER CIGARETTE!
CLICK!


HOW DO YOU LIKE MY NEW BATHTUB, BOBO? I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO DIVE IN!
MAGNIFICENT, YOUR HIGHNESS. AND YOU'LL HAVE HOT WATER ANY MOMENT NOW. THE MEN ARE JUST COMPLETING THEIR FINAL CHECK OF THE EQUIPMENT.
ALL FURNACES OKAY. ALL CISTERNS IN GOOD CONDITION. TESTING PRESSURE... LET HER GO AT ONE... TEN... NINE... EIGHT...
ALL SYSTEMS A-OKAY... SHE'S GOING UP... NOW FOR THE COUNTDOWN. I'D BETTER TAKE MY PICTURES AND GET OUT OF HERE FAST!
CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!
I... OOF!
AH! THIS IS THE LIFE! AND SO MUCH MORE PRACTICAL THAN MAKING ROCKETS!

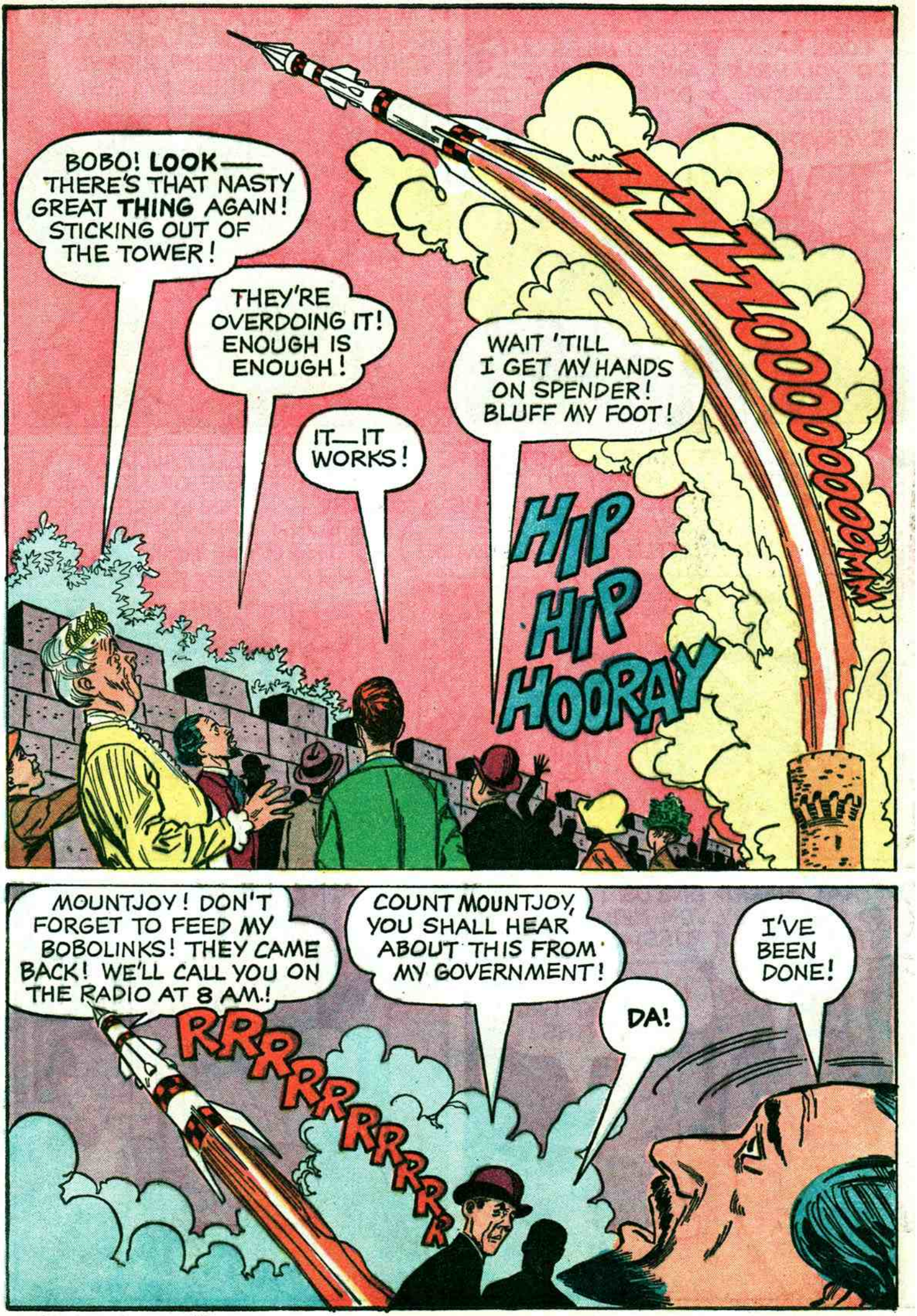

MR. SPENDER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE TOWER? ARE YOU HURT?
PROFESSOR! LOOK AT THIS LIGHTER— IT'S ACTUALLY A CAMERA! MR. SPENDER IS A SPY!
IT'S TRUE! I AM A BRITISH SPY SENT TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE ROCKET YOUR COUNTRY IS WORKING ON. PLEASE DON'T HANG ME BY MY FEET!
BUT GRAND FENWICK ISN'T PLANNING TO SEND A MOON ROCKET. ONLY THE PROFESSOR AND I ARE DOING IT!
THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE WORKING DAY AND NIGHT TO GET HER READY. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE WELDING ON THESE SHOWER-HEADS AS JETS TO CORRECT OUR FLIGHT COURSE AND ALTITUDE.
THESE MEN ARE COMPLETE LUNATICS! I'LL HAVE TO HUMOR THEM...
AMAZING! AND WHAT ARE YOU USING FOR FUEL?
THE PROFESSOR HAS DEVELOPED A NEW KIND OF ATOMIC FUEL. PINOTIUM 64. HE MAKES IT FROM OUR GRAND FENWICK WINE!
FASCINATING. I SUPPOSE YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN YOU FULL SUPPORT?
OUR GOVERNMENT DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT.
I WONDER IF I MIGHT TAKE A FEW MORE PICTURES. SOME SHOTS OF THE SHOWER-HEADS— I MEAN JETS. AND ONE OF THE FURNACES.
CLICK

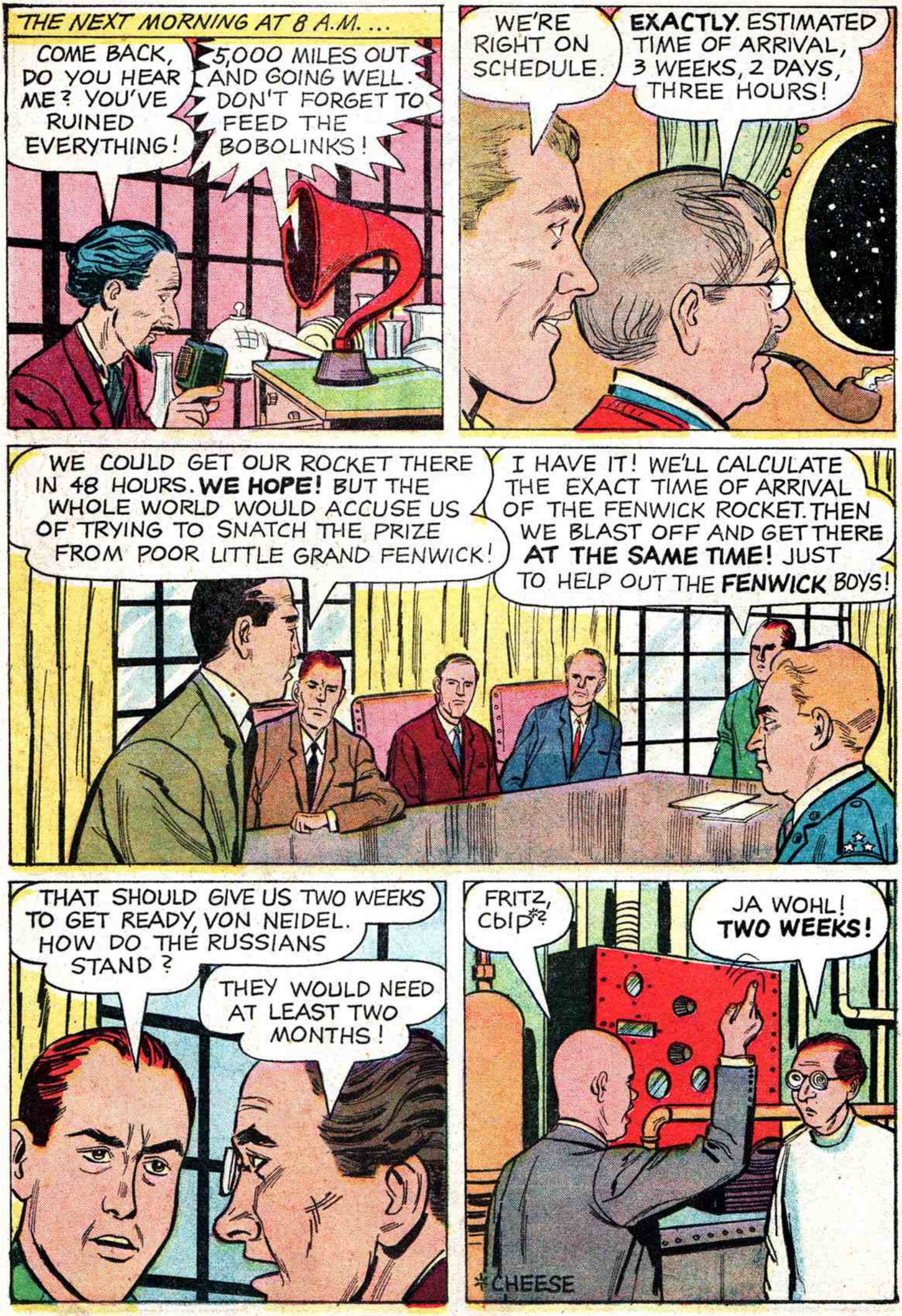
THANKS AWFULLY, CHAPS! WONDERFUL HOSPITALITY AND ALL THAT! GOODBYE!
IF YOU ASK ME HE IS OFF HIS ROCKER!
LATER...
YOU TOLD A BRITISH SPY THAT WE'RE TRYING TO FOOL THE AMERICANS? ARE YOU CRAZY??
YOU SEE, WE THOUGHT HE WAS A BIRD-WATCHER. WE DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS A SPY UNTIL LATER.
BUT WHATS THE DIFFERENCE? YOU SAID THE AMERICANS ALREADY KNOW THE MONEY ISN'T BEING USED FOR ROCKET RESEARCH.
YES! BUT THE AMERICANS DON'T WANT THE OTHER COUNTRIES TO KNOW, SILLY! THAT'S THE WHOLE IDEA!
I HAVE IT! WE'LL STAGE A REAL ROCKET LAUNCHING! INVITE ALL THE BIG NATIONS! WE'LL START THE COUNTDOWN, AND THE ROCKET WILL EXPLODE! AND WE'LL BE OFF THE HOOK!
NEVER!
THE ROCKET WILL NOT EXPLODE!
NONSENSE, PROFESSOR! YOU'RE ALWAYS EXPLODING THINGS. HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE YOU TO PREPARE THIS THING?
BUT KOKINTZ AND VINCENT HAVE OTHER PLANS...
THE END OF THE MONTH.
FINE! I'LL GET THE INVITATIONS OUT RIGHT AWAY! HO! A PHONEY ROCKET LAUNCHING! HA!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER IN LONDON...
I ASSURE YOU, SIR, THAT ALL THE EQUIPMENT IS DEFINITELY FOR PLUMBING. THAT INVITATION TO THE LAUNCHING IS ALL PART OF A BLUFF.
THANKS TO YOU, SPENDER, ALL BRITAIN CAN SLEEP EASIER TONIGHT!
IN WASHINGTON...
SENATOR, I-I ASSURE YOU THAT LAUNCHING INVITATION IS SOME KIND OF JOKE!
IT HAD BETTER BE, BRACEWELL. OR WE'LL LAUNCH YOU!
AND THE SCENE IS REPEATED IN MOSCOW...
Я ВИЖУ KHURY* GRAND FENWICK
У МЕНЯ НЕТ КНИГИ* IVANOVICH.
* I SEE THE BOOK, GRAND FENWICK
* I HAVE NO BOOK, IVANOWICH
MOUNTJOY'S BIG DAY ARRIVES WITH AN AIR OF MIXED FEELINGS...
OUR MAN
ON THE MOON
LUNAR DAY
LUNA-TIC DAY
KEEP FENWICK OFF THE MOON
BAN THE MOON!
I DON'T BLAME THEM FOR CELEBRATING NOW. THEY'LL HAVE NOTHING TO CELEBRATE AFTER!
THEIR PLAN IS INGENIOUS BUT SIMPLE, SIR. THE ROCKET FIZZLES OUT, EVERYONE CONGRATULATES THEM ON A GALLANT FAILURE, AND WE ALL GO HOME.
ТЫ УИТАЕШЬ*
* YOU ARE READING.

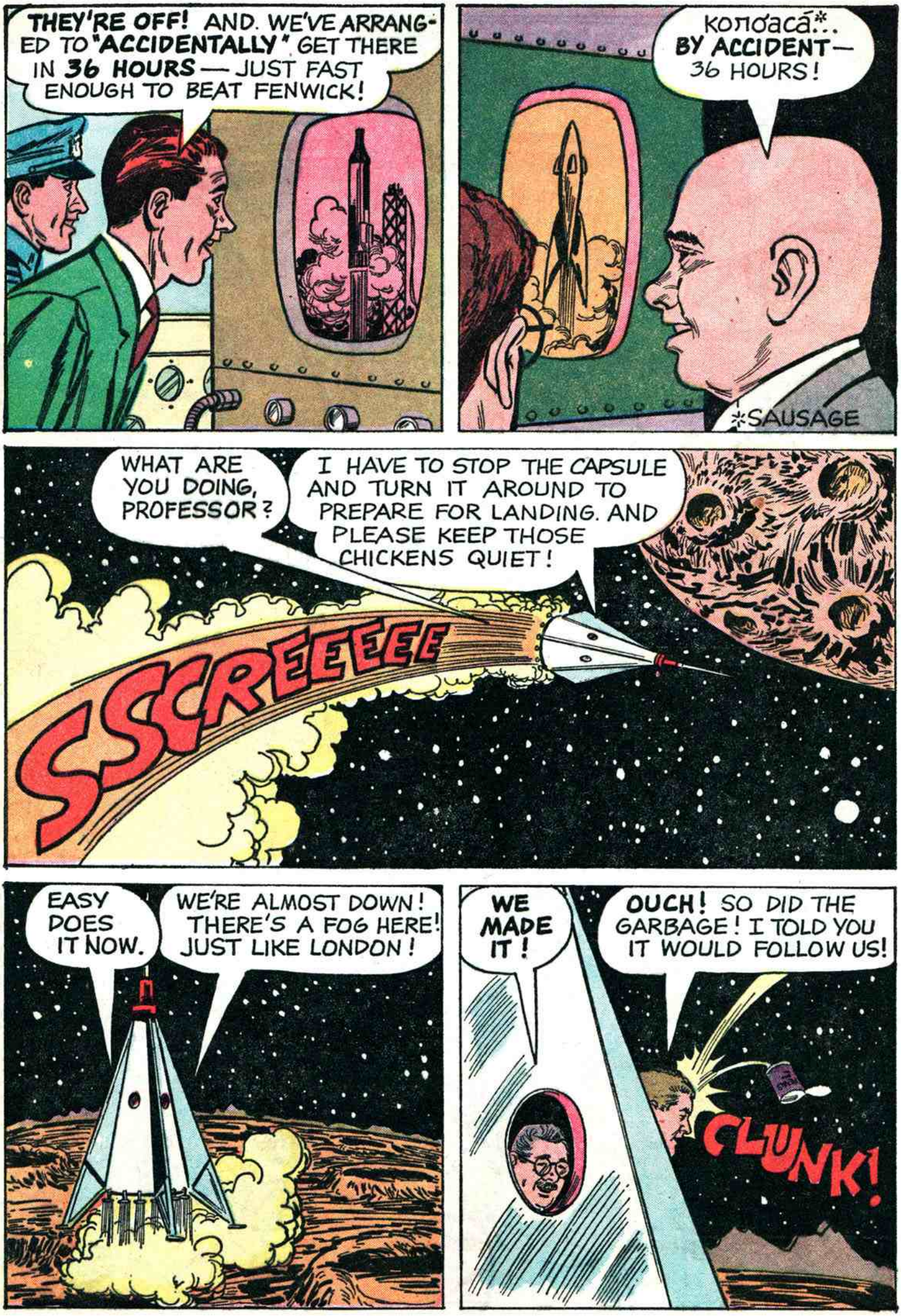
GENTLEMEN, I SHOULD LIKE YOU TO MEET OUR TWO ASTRONAUTS. PROFESSOR KOKINTZ AND MY OWN DEAR SON, VINCENT.
KOKINTZ! AREN'T YOU A BIT OLD FOR THIS SORT OF THING?
WE ARE NEVER TOO OLD FOR SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT!
IN CASE YOU ARE INTERESTED, OUR JOURNEY TO THE MOON WILL TAKE THREE WEEKS.
THREE WEEKS? WE ESTIMATE THE TRIP SHOULD BE 48 HOURS.
THREE WEEKS INDEED! CAN'T YOU MAKE IT SOUND MORE CONVINCING?
WHAT FOR? WE ARE IN NO HURRY.
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TAKING THOSE CHICKENS FOR?
FOR FRESH EGGS ON THE WAY OUT. ROAST CHICKEN ON THE WAY HOME.
ERR...AH...I BELIEVE IT'S TIME, GENTLEMEN. SHALL WE ADJOURN TO THE OBSERVATION PLATFORM?

ALL SYSTEMS IN GO CONDITION. IS IT ELEVEN O'CLOCK ?
NEAR ENOUGH. LET'S GO !
HMMMMM
SSSS
SSSH
HISSS
THAT'S CLEVER. I WONDER HOW THEY RAISED IT THAT HIGH... IT'S STOPPED. HA! IT HAD TO!
SSSHHH
IT'S STOPPED!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT !
CLUNK!
THAT'S IT MEN. CONK OUT. THEN THE EXPLOSION, AND IT'S ALL OVER! NICE TRY AND ALL THAT!
SSSHHH


BOBO! LOOK— THERE'S THAT NASTY GREAT THING AGAIN! STICKING OUT OF THE TOWER!
THEY'RE OVERDOING IT! ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!
IT—IT WORKS!
WAIT 'TILL I GET MY HANDS ON SPENDER! BLUFF MY FOOT!
ZZZZOOOOOOOMM
HIP HIP HOORAY
MOUNTJOY! DON'T FORGET TO FEED MY BOBOLINKS! THEY CAME BACK! WE'LL CALL YOU ON THE RADIO AT 8 AM.!
RRRRRRRRRR
COUNT MOUNTJOY, YOU SHALL HEAR ABOUT THIS FROM MY GOVERNMENT!
DA!
I'VE BEEN DONE!


THE NEXT MORNING AT 8 A.M. ...
COME BACK, DO YOU HEAR ME? YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING!
5,000 MILES OUT AND GOING WELL. DON'T FORGET TO FEED THE BOBOLINKS!
WE'RE RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.
EXACTLY. ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL, 3 WEEKS, 2 DAYS, THREE HOURS!
WE COULD GET OUR ROCKET THERE IN 48 HOURS. WE HOPE! BUT THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD ACCUSE US OF TRYING TO SNATCH THE PRIZE FROM POOR LITTLE GRAND FENWICK!
I HAVE IT! WE'LL CALCULATE THE EXACT TIME OF ARRIVAL OF THE FENWICK ROCKET. THEN WE BLAST OFF AND GET THERE AT THE SAME TIME! JUST TO HELP OUT THE FENWICK BOYS!
THAT SHOULD GIVE US TWO WEEKS TO GET READY, VON NEIDEL. HOW DO THE RUSSIANS STAND?
THEY WOULD NEED AT LEAST TWO MONTHS!
FRITZ, CbIP*?
JA WOHL! TWO WEEKS!
*CHEESE

SPACE IS A WONDERFUL PLACE TO DISPOSE OF GARBAGE!
THE RADIO IS DEAD. NOW WE WON'T BE ABLE TO REPORT OUR PROGRESS AND POSITION.
OUR GARBAGE IS FOLLOWING US!
NATURALLY. THERE'S NO GRAVITY PULL.
WHOOPS! LOST MY BALANCE!
BE CAREFUL!
I CAN'T GET BACK TO MY FEET! O-OO! SORRY!
THE SPEED CONTROL LEVER! YOU'VE SPOILED MY CALCULATIONS! NOW WE'LL GET THERE SOONER, AND PROBABLY LAND ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON!
CLANK
HISSSSS

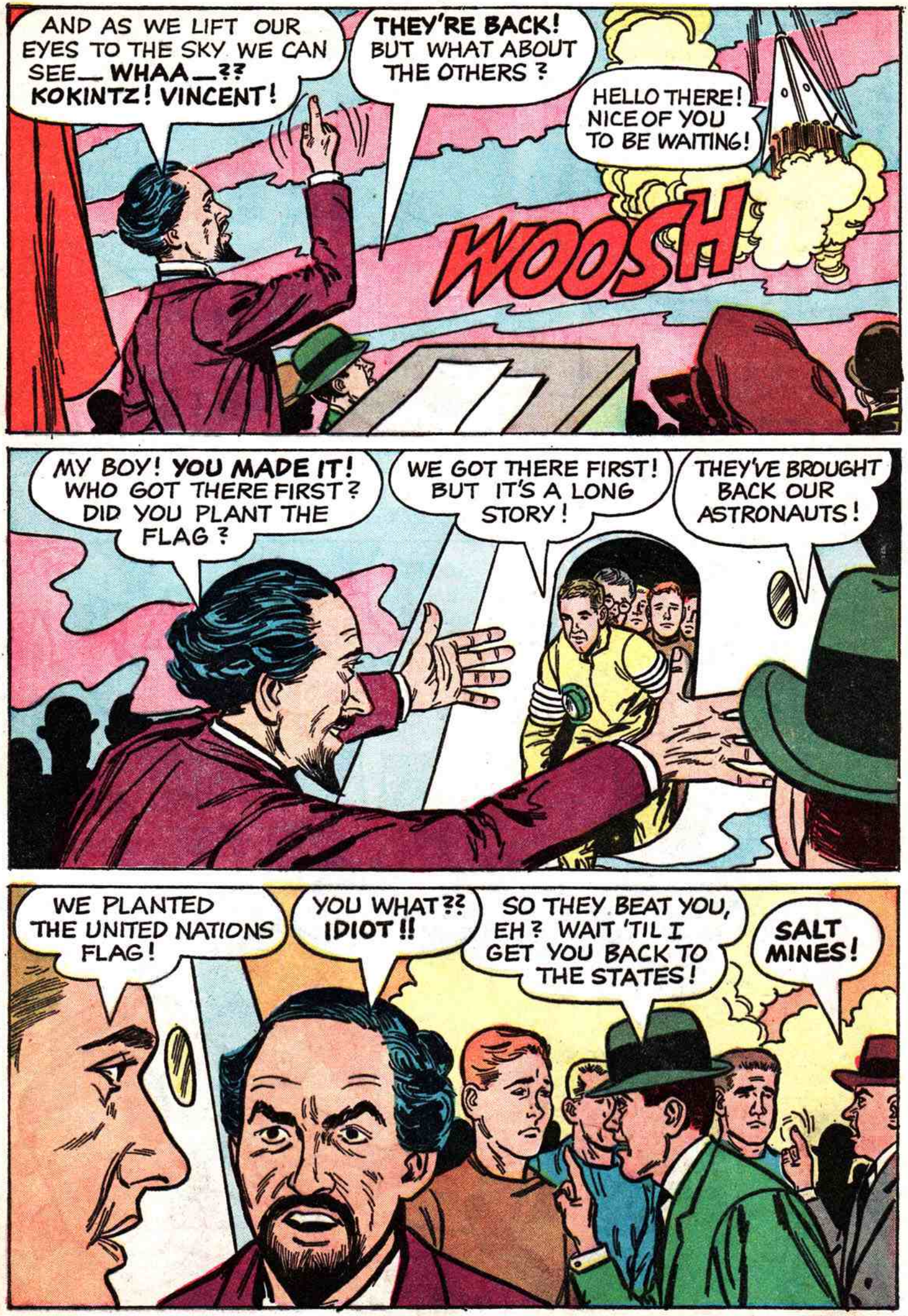

THEY'RE OFF! AND. WE'VE ARRANGED TO "ACCIDENTALLY" GET THERE IN 36 HOURS — JUST FAST ENOUGH TO BEAT FENWICK!
KONDACA*... BY ACCIDENT — 36 HOURS!
*SAUSAGE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, PROFESSOR?
I HAVE TO STOP THE CAPSULE AND TURN IT AROUND TO PREPARE FOR LANDING. AND PLEASE KEEP THOSE CHICKENS QUIET!
SSCREEEEE
EASY DOES IT NOW.
WE'RE ALMOST DOWN! THERE'S A FOG HERE! JUST LIKE LONDON!
WE MADE IT!
OUCH! SO DID THE GARBAGE! I TOLD YOU IT WOULD FOLLOW US!
CLUNK!

NOW TO PLANT THE FLAG! I... OOF! HELP! PROFESSOR!
WUF
I HAVE YOU! HMM... JUST AS THEY FEARED. THE MOON'S SURFACE IS JUST DEEP DUST!
LOOK! SHOOTING STARS! TWO OF THEM!
LOOK AGAIN, MY BOY! NOT STARS—SPACE CAPSULES! I THINK WE'VE GOT COMPANY!
ZZ OOOO
ZZO
GOT TO PLANT OUR FLAG FIRST!
ЗО́НТИК*
WATCH THIS, VINCENT! IT SHOULD BE GOOD FOR A LAUGH!
UNITED STATES
CCCP
* UMBRELLA

GOOD DAY, GENTLEMEN! GRAND FENWICK WELCOMES YOU TO ITS MOON. PASSPORTS AND VACCINATION CARDS, PLEASE. AND STATE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT.
YOU? HERE ALREADY? YOU'RE NOT DUE FOR TWO MORE DAYS!
ПЛАСТИНКА!*
*PHONOGRAPH RECORD
WHAT DID THEY GIVE YOU TO EAT IN THOSE FOOD TUBES?
IRISH STEW.
ХЛЕБ
WHY NOT JOIN US IN SOME CHICKEN? THERE'S PLENTY!
IRISH STEW
*BREAD
SO NONE OF OUR RADIOS WORKS. AND NO ONE ON EARTH KNOWS WHO GOT HERE FIRST. SO DOES IT REALLY MATTER?
SO WE BEAT YOU BY A COUPLE OF HOURS. SO WHAT?
THAT'S VERY BIG OF YOU! THIS CHICKEN IS DELICIOUS!

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'M GOING TO PUT UP THIS UNITED NATIONS FLAG INSTEAD OF OUR OWN. THEN THE MOON BELONGS TO EVERYBODY!
WONDERFUL GESTURE! THAT'S TRULY INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION!
DA! MORE CHICKEN!
WELL, HATE TO EAT AND RUN, BUT WE HAVE LOTS TO DO. REPAIRS AND SUCH. GREAT PARTY. THANKS.
DA! MUST POLISH OUR CAPSULE! GOO-BY!
WHERE ARE THEY ALL OFF TO?
THAT'S NOT FAIR! THEY'RE HEADING FOR HOME—AND THEY'LL GET THERE FIRST TO TELL THEIR VERSION OF THE STORY!
HAVE NO FEAR, VINCENT! IN THEIR EAGERNESS, THEY FORGOT ABOUT THE DUST! THE ONLY DIRECTION THEY'RE HEADED IS DOWN!
WOOOSH
WOOSH

THREE WEEKS LATER, AND NO WORD FROM ANY OF THE CAPSULES. ALL SIX ASTRONAUTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN UP FOR LOST, AND GRAND FENWICK ARRANGES A MOST SPECTACULAR INTERNATIONAL FUNERAL...
SORRY ABOUT YOUR SON, MOUNTJOY.
HE AND PROFESSOR KOKINTZ GAVE THEIR LIVES MOST HEROICALLY. I CAN FIND COMFORT IN THAT...
IT'S A SAD LOSS, BUT A GREAT GAIN FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.
DA...
I SAY THESE SIX MEN DID NOT FAIL. FOR HERE, TODAY WE HAVE GLORIOUS PROOF OF THEIR SUCCESS. WE ARE ALL GATHERED HERE IN INTERNATIONAL SADNESS, TO WITNESS THE UNVEILING OF THIS MONUMENT IN THEIR MEMORIES.
CAN I PULL IT NOW, BOBO?


AND AS WE LIFT OUR EYES TO THE SKY WE CAN SEE— WHAA—?? KOKINTZ! VINCENT!
THEY'RE BACK! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS ?
HELLO THERE! NICE OF YOU TO BE WAITING!
WOOSH
MY BOY! YOU MADE IT! WHO GOT THERE FIRST? DID YOU PLANT THE FLAG ?
WE GOT THERE FIRST! BUT IT'S A LONG STORY!
THEY'VE BROUGHT BACK OUR ASTRONAUTS!
WE PLANTED THE UNITED NATIONS FLAG!
YOU WHAT?? IDIOT!!
SO THEY BEAT YOU, EH? WAIT 'TIL I GET YOU BACK TO THE STATES!
SALT MINES!

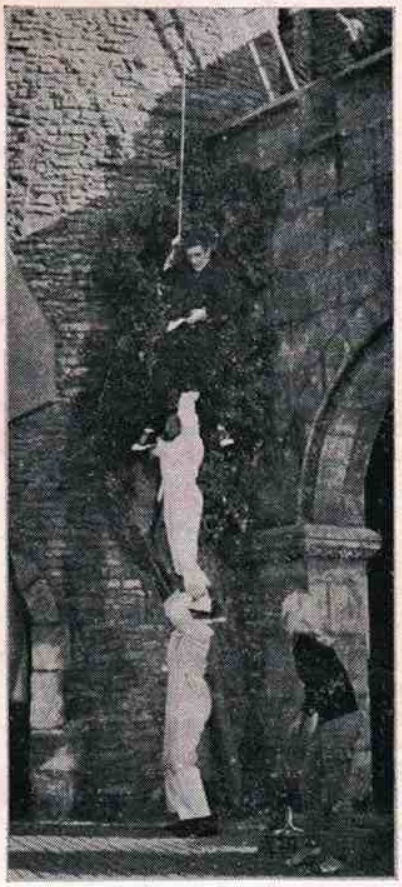
I SIMPLY CANNOT WAIT ANY LONGER! HERE GOES!
THE MOON IS OURS. WE GOT THERE FIRST!
WE HAVE ONLY YOUR WORD FOR THAT! AND YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY THE MOST HONEST FELLOW I EVER MET!
CCCP
G.F.
USA
USA
PEACE AND WORLD BROTHERHOOD
AND SO WE LEAVE THE SERENE DUCHY OF GRAND FENWICK, HAPPY IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT MEN OF ALL NATIONS CAN SETTLE THEIR PROBLEMS PEACEFULLY, AND GAIN GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND WORLD HARMONY...
NO ONE TALKS TO ME LIKE THAT, YOU-YOU-AMERICAN YOU!!
GREAT SCOTT! I'VE BEEN OVERTHROWN!
HOW DARE YOU? YOU TWO-FACED PHONEY!
WHY DON'T YOU FELLOWS TELL THE TRUTH?
ARE YOU KIDDING! I'D LOSE MY PROMOTION!
I THINK I STAY IN FENWICK! IT'S SAFER THAN MOSCOW!!
FOR PEACE AND WORLD BROTHERHOOD

IT'S TRUE!

The moon will never be the same because..

these two mixed-up spacemen...

who were chased by this wacky, bird-watching spy...



during their hilarious, space-training program... made it to the MOON AND BACK from this home-made launching pad in a rocket ship full of chickens!

CONFUSING?... IT'S A LAUGH RIOT!

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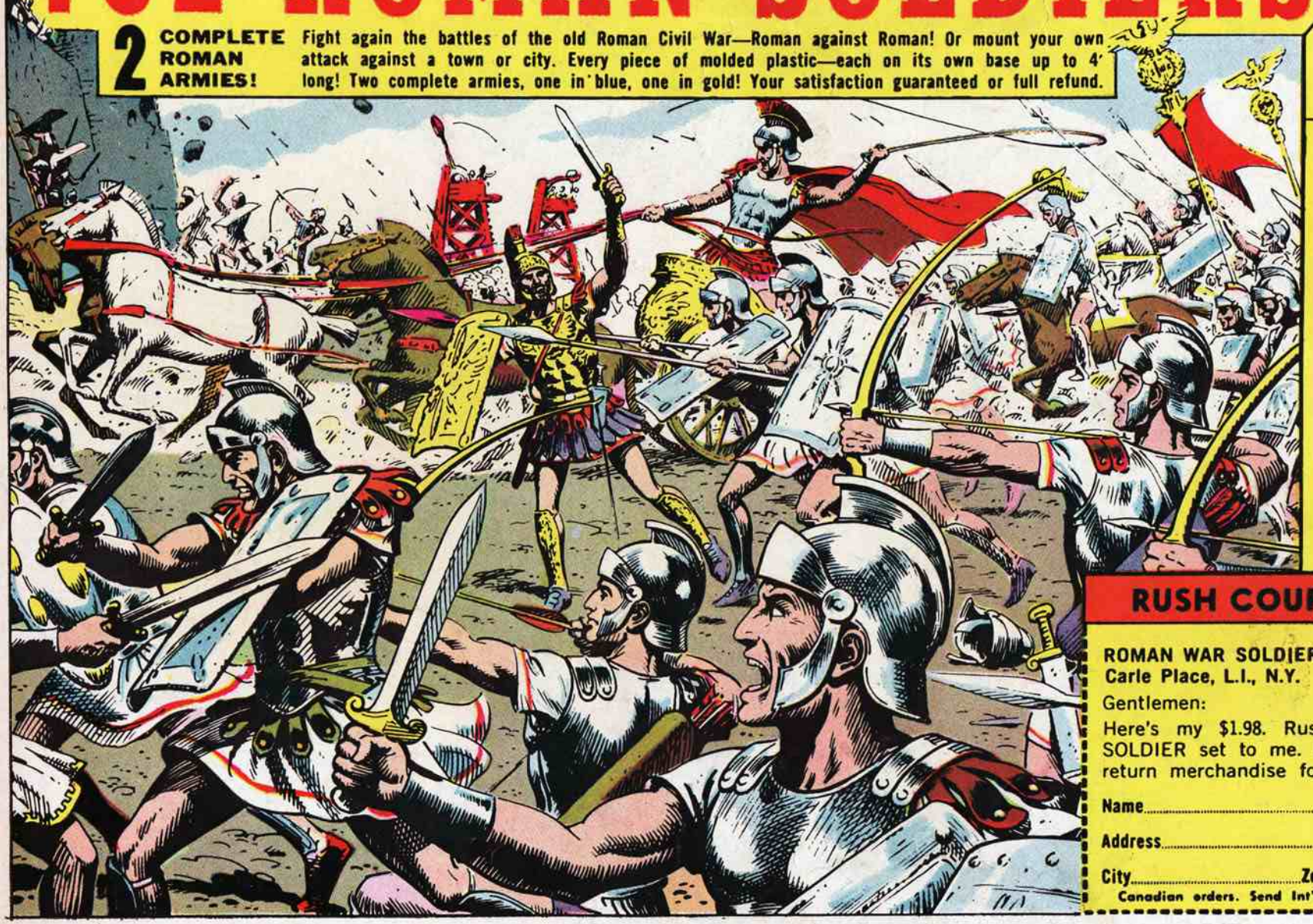

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